



Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 24

MAY 1974

NUMBER 4

Annual Meeting — Southeast Conference

The Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ is called to meet Saturday and Sunday, June 8 and 9, 1974, at Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama. If the gas shortage prevails, some changes may have to be made. The pastors and churches will be notified.

Wallace Boothby, of Birmingham, will call the Conference to order at 11 a. m. on Saturday. The Conference concludes with worship on Sunday. Those attending will be on their way home before lunch.

Highlighting the Conference will be Dr. Howard Spragg, Executive Secretary of the Board for Homeland Ministries. He began his ministry in the Southeast Conference as a Student Summer Service Worker. As he arrived, he was told he had a funeral to conduct! As a college student, this was something new to him. However, he did it.

The 17-76 Achievement Fund will be presented by the co-chairmen, Franklin C. Thomas of Atlanta and Roland W. Kampmeier of Chattanooga, and their committee. This campaign will seek funds for the 6 A. M. A. Colleges in the south (3 of them are in the Southeast Conference — Talladega, Fisk and Tougaloo) and for educational institutions overseas supported by our Board for World Ministries. The Challenge Goal for the Southeast Conference is \$89,455 and the Primary Goal is \$70,461, while the National Goal is \$17,000,000.

Undergirding the Conference will be the determination to "Strengthen the Local Churches." 24 local church consultants have been trained and have met with churches desiring their services. These men and women are members of our churches and have committed themselves to this task.

The Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference is the churches gathered for sharing, fellowship and support. It is also the occasion when the churches decide what we shall do together and how it is to be done.

Join us, will you, at Talladega?

Alabama Women Announce Retreat

The Annual Summer Retreat for the Women's Fellowship groups in Congregational Christian (U. C. C.) churches of Alabama is June 1, 1974 at Southern Union State College. Come and enjoy a day of inspiration, fellowship, and exploration of materials for the year 1974-75.

Individuals with expertise will be present to challenge, inspire, and arouse new interests in the possibilities for witnessing to one's faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The theme of the Conference will converge around the worship theme for 1974-75, "WE — NO LONGER STRANGERS". Please get your orders in for materials at once. They were given in the April issue of SOUTHEAST NEWS.

TIME: 9:30-4:00.

PLACE: College dining room.

LUNCH: \$2.50.

Please get registrations for lunch in to: Mrs. A. R. Van Cleave, P. O. Box 73,

Belvidere Shepherd Has Large Flock

The Rev. James Cowlshaw, minister of our United Church in Belvidere, Tenn., has accepted, upon the approval of the Church Consistory, the invitation of the Executive Council of the Ala.-Tenn. Association to serve as Area Minister in the Ala.-Tenn. Association area. He continues his ministerial duties at the Belvidere Church. He began March 15, 1974 and will serve the churches on a basis of one day a week.

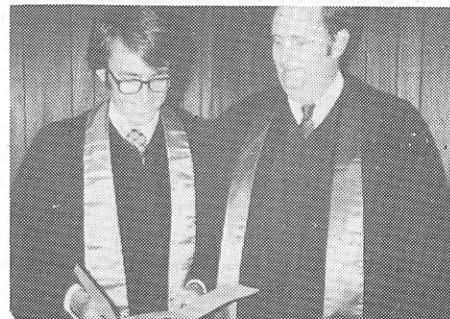
The Pilgrim News of Chattanooga (3-27-74) reported that "Jim has qualities of understanding and vision which fit him for the job and we congratulate him on his new post."

Mr. Cowlshaw's address is: Belvidere, Tennessee 37306. His telephone number is: (615) 967-0133.

Wadley, Ala. 36276, no later than May 25. Requests for overnight accommodations may also be sent to Mrs. Van Cleave.

Mrs. Joe A. French

Blankenhorn Installed As Area Minister



David Chandler checks the Program of Installation with Warren Blankenhorn

When Mr. Wallace Boothby, Moderator of the Southeast Conference said to Rev. Warren A. Blankenhorn, "I install you as Associate Conference Minister for the Southern Alabama Area", the dream of many people was realized. The Service of Installation was held at the Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church, Rt. 2, Pine Mountain, Ga., Saturday, March 30, 1974, at 2 p. m.

Twenty Years ago, Rev. Erston Butterfield, Superintendent of the Southeast Convention, outlined his dream of area ministers in this big geographical area, now called Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. One of the last official acts of the late Mr. Paul Beard, secretary for the East Alabama Association for more than forty years, was to assist in the development of financial arrangements and of the job description for the Area Minister. The flowers at the Installation Service were given to the "Glory of God and in memory of Mr. Beard."

Sharing in the service were: W. Davis Chandler, Moderator of Southern Alabama Area Council; Joe A. French, Moderator of East Alabama Association; George C. Hawkins, pastor of First Congregational Church, Montgomery; Mrs. Wayne McCarley, organist of Oak Grove Church; C. Frank McCook, interim pastor of the church; Tom Medders, vice-moderator of the Southern Alabama Area Council; J. K. Murphy, layman of the local church; Arnold Slater, chairman of the Personnel Committee of the Southeast Conference; Mrs. Virgil Smith of the Oak Grove Church; and W. J. Andes, Conference Minister, Southeast Conference.

East Alabama Lay Ministry Program Begun

Thirty-three ministers and lay people from thirteen churches of the East Alabama Association met at LaGrange College in LaGrange, Georgia, April 15, for the beginning of the Lay Ministry training program.

Dr. Charles F. McCook, head of the Department of Religion at LaGrange College, and currently serving as interim pastor at Oak Grove Church, began a six-weeks course in Old Testament. The sessions are composed of two hours on Monday nights with a certificate to be awarded upon completion of the course.

The Rev. Johnny Young, who lives in Reynolds, Georgia, is traveling over 150 miles round trip to attend classes. Russell Woods Church of Phenix City, with seven attending, has the largest number enrolled. The churches represented are: Columbus United, Corinth Wadley, Huguley, Hillside LaGrange, Langdale, Lanett, Lowell Roanoke, Mt. Zion, Roanoke, Oak Grove Pine Mountain, Phenix City First, Rock Stand, Roanoke, Russell Woods Phenix City, and Wadley.

The course cost is only \$10.00, including syllabus and textbook. Dr. McCook is planning a correspondence course in the near future for those whose distance of travel is prohibitive for attendance at LaGrange College. This is open to anyone wherever he or she may live. Further information may be obtained from: The Rev. Harold Auler, 301 S. 14th Ave., Lanett, Ala., 36863.

Dr. David Naglee, professor of New Testament, LaGrange College, will conduct a New Testament course after the completion of the Old Testament course.

Ala.-Tenn. Mini-Youth Conference Pilgrim CC, Chattanooga

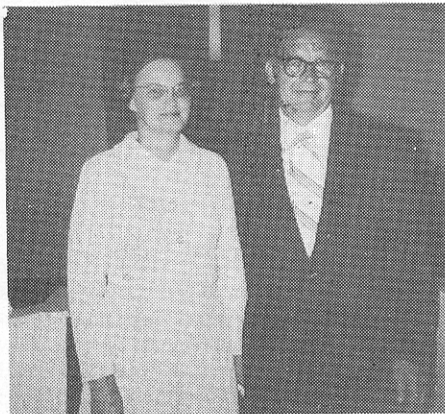
They worshiped at Mizpah Reform Jewish Congregation and the Greek Orthodox Church. A Saturday morning breakfast communion service was followed by faith exploration and sharing. The young people also toured Chattanooga and enjoyed recreational events.

Adult advisors joined the young people with sleeping bags for a "camping" experience in the church building.

Teacher Training Session

The East Alabama Association is sponsoring a teacher training session for all Sunday School teachers and Vacation Church School teachers on Sunday, May 5, from 3:00 to 7:00 p. m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Langdale U. C. C. Leading the training session will be Chaplain Hank Bause of our denomination.

Service Of Installation Held For James T. McAdams



Margaret and James T. McAdams,
Installation, E. Tallassee Church.
April 2, 1974

The Congregational Christian (United) Church of East Tallassee acted as host to the formal installation service of its pastor, Rev. James T. McAdams, on Sunday, April 21st. At the morning worship service, Dr. W. J. Andes, Conference Minister, was guest speaker. Lunch was served at the church, followed by the installation service at 1:30. Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, associate minister for S. Alabama, was installing minister.

Following the installation, a service of dedication for the parsonage was held, and Mrs. McAdams was hostess for an open house.

Tribute was given also to the newest church project: The Garden of Honor and Memoriam.

Blackwood Church Calls A Pastor

Blackwood Church, Headland, Alabama, has called Wayne Newton, P. O. Box 898, Dothan, Alabama 36301, to serve as pastor on a temporary basis until the quarterly meeting in July.

The church is enlisting the services of "Local Church Consultants", now being trained for this task. Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Area Minister, is arranging for a team for the Blackwood Church.

Five of the young people and their sponsor participated in the Youth Mini-Camp at Grandview, Ala., April 5-7, and reported a meaningful experience.

Mrs. Mary Vee Faison and Miss Dora Brackin attended the installation service for Warren Blankenhorn at Oak Grove Church March 30, 1974.

ROCK STAND HAS AREA MISSION STUDY

An Area Mission Study was given on March 4 at Rock Stand Church, near Roanoke. Groups came from Noon Day, Roanoke Lowell, New Hope, Antioch, Wadley, and Bethany churches. Also present were guests from other local churches.

The program was built around the mission study theme for the year on Latin America. Mrs. Ken Corson, well known lecturer on Latin America after living there several years, presented an interesting and action-provoking program in two parts. First, she gave a brief history of Latin America, telling of the people, their customs and religion, and their present economic, political situation. The second half included showing a number of slides made by Mrs. Corson and her husband in Latin America.

Between the program division, an informal tea was given by the hostesses in the church Fellowship hall.

Mr. Corson, after years of imprisonment in Cuba as a political prisoner, asks for the prayers of American Christians. He remains in prison, but hopes for release.

Rock Stand Church, Roanoke, through its minister, Rev. G. G. Norris, has suggested they raise the OCWM giving in October and send in more than they are apportioned.

The Rock Stand Church recently raised about \$500 in two Sundays for several victims of a small tornado in a community northward. They didn't know the people — just that they needed help.

Nine Churches Share Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Churches around Roanoke shared in a Maundy Thursday Communion service at First Church on April 11.

In an informal setting around circle tables the order of the service followed the events of the night on which the supper was established, in which the loaf was broken and passed around to each person.

In the center of the circle were one large lighted candle representing Christ, the light of the world, and 12 smaller candles; eleven of the lighted representing the eleven disciples, and one unlighted representing Judas who had left to betray his Lord.

Nine churches were represented in the attendance and one or more persons from each church shared in taking the lighted candles outside to symbolize that we each are to bear the Light of Christ to the world.

Huntsville-Madison County Tornado — Wednesday, April 3, 1974

On Wednesday, April 3, 1974, Madison County, Alabama was devastated by six tornadoes, beginning at approximately 5:35 p. m. and ending at 12:30 a. m. The two worst funnel clouds caused great damage in two parts of the county. The first laid waste over 72 homes and farm buildings in the town of Hazel Green, just north of Huntsville where six persons were killed and many injured. The second, coming into Huntsville from the southwest, crossed over Madkin Mountain, caused great damage on the Redstone Arsenal and at the Army Missile School, and then wrecked a major trailer park, plus businesses along Drake Avenue and South Memorial Parkway. It partially destroyed Parkway City Shopping Center, many homes, and then continued up the west face of Monte Sano devastating property and homes in that area.

Damage in the county is in excess of \$22,000,000 and over 360 homes were destroyed, plus other damage. Over twenty persons were killed as a result of these storms and many injured. Another tornado destroyed a portion of the Sherwood Section of Huntsville, the previous Monday. Making seven separate storms to hit the county within one week.

The members of United Church in Huntsville responded to the emergency by preparing sandwiches for rescue workers and the homeless. They collected three large truckloads of furniture which were delivered to disaster headquarters in Hazel Green, plus cooking wear and bedding.

The Board for World Ministries, responding to a call for help, immediately sent 100 blankets by air which arrived two and one-half days after the storm. These were also delivered to Hazel Green and were taken almost as soon as they arrived. The Board also sent \$2,000 which has been placed in the Henderson National Bank as the nucleus of "The United Church Tornado Relief Fund." A committee composed of church members and public officials has been selected to allocate the money sent, plus that raised locally — with an appeal going out to the community via media for additional funds.

Rev. H. W. Tuttle, pastor of Huntsville United Church, reported the progress of the storms over WRSA, the only station operating after almost complete power failure in the city of Huntsville.

— Henry W. Tuttle

Rev. George Fidler reports severe damage from the tornado in the city of Cullman, Alabama. St. John's United Church has provided aid to victims among which was a member of the church.

Letter From Villa International Atlanta, Ga. 3-18-74

To: W. J. Andes, Conference Minister

Because of your familiarity with Villa International, Atlanta, and because of the commitment of the Southeast Conference I think you will be interested in information about the work being done at Villa. During the first full year of operation we had three hundred and thirty-five guests who came to us from seventy-four countries! I am sure that these visitors left this country with a deeper understanding of us and a knowledge that we, a Christian nation, are concerned about other peoples.

The work of Rev. Karlton Johnson on our board has helped us through our first year, and we appreciate his service.

Villa has not had the financial support it needs. Our annual budget is \$52,359.00, and our board is working to get income more nearly in line with the job to be done. This letter comes to express our appreciation for your contribution of \$350.00 and to express our hope that the Southeast Conference can give a budgeted gift of \$400.00 for 1975.

Sincerely,
J. G. Wohlford
Ch. Finance Committee
Villa International Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

NOTE: (Ga.-S. C. Association churches and members provided the \$350.00).



Tornado, Huntsville, April 4, 1974.

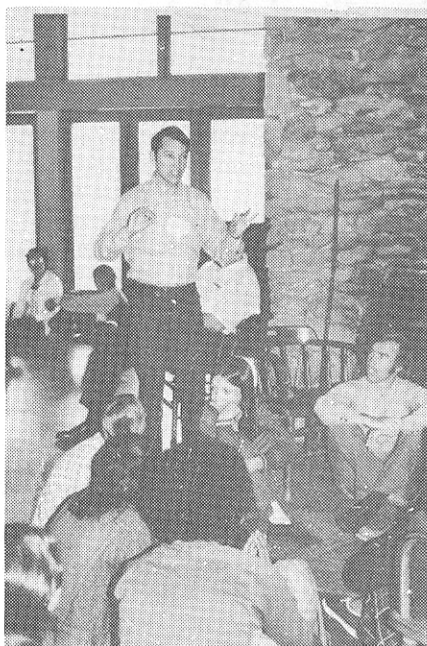


What's left of a mobile home — Tornado, Huntsville, April 4, 1974.



Receiver of First UCBWH blanket, Hazel Green, Alabama.

"FEATURE STORIES"



Program Director, Chaplain Hank Bause
Sr. UCY Mini-Camp, Camp Grandview,
Prattville, Ala., April 5-7, 1974.



Response to "Serendipity"
Sr. UCY Mini-Camp, Camp Grandview,
Prattville, Ala., April 5-7, 1974.

Sr. UCY Mini-Camp

"Serendipity" was the title of the program around which our Sr. UCY young people became very much involved at their Mini-Camp held at Camp Grandview in Prattville, Al. on the weekend of April 5, 6 and 7, 1974. As our young people and their adult advisors would quite freely tell you, the spiritual atmosphere was just as lively and real as the title would suggest. Beginning with blindfolds and continuing through poster making and a communion service, all 106 campers became deeply engrossed in the group dynamics approach of exploring the personal nature of Christianity. Under the dynamic leadership of Chaplain Hank Bause and in the beautiful setting which Camp Grandview provided, our young people and adults had a camping experience which they shall not forget. Our thanks are especially extended to Chaplain "Hank" Bause under whose guidance the camp literally "came to life."

East Alabama Youth Dinner

May 18, 1974, at 8:00 p. m. will be the date and time for a dinner for our East Alabama high school youth and their parents, to be held at the Langdale church. With both our Area Minister and our Conference Minister in attendance, the spotlight will be put on our 1974 high school graduates. The program will also feature "The Cluster Group Idea" — a new method for organizing our area youth groups in the Southeast Conference. Langdale church, our host for the evening, represents the B-TOLL Cluster Group, which has been operating successfully for a year.

Registration blanks have been forwarded to your church or youth group. If you have any questions about the dinner, please forward inquiries to Rev. Steve Gray, 2400 65th St., Langdale, Al. 36864.



BREAKFAST "ICEBREAKER" —
Sr. UCY Mini-Camp, Camp Grandview,
Prattville, Ala., April 5-7, 1974.

What An Hour Of Sharing!

One church in our conference, Belvidere, Tenn., gave to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering \$1150.00 with but 45 members contributing! Running them a close second, the Pleasant Hill Community Church gave to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering \$1,105.00, with approximately 160 members participating. How about these churches?

Mrs. F. C. Lester Hospitalized

Word has come that a very dear friend and co-worker in Southeast Conference has been hospitalized — Mrs. F. C. (Emily) Lester. Emily is in Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Leaders in this conference have come to rely heavily on Emily's advice and help. We shall indeed miss her presence at our upcoming Annual Meeting, since she was to be part of the program. Our greetings and best wishes go to Emily. Our prayers are for her recovery of health and strength.

Order Desk Calendar

And Plan Book NOW

The 1974-1975 United Church of Christ Desk Calendar and Plan Book is now available for the leaders of your congregation. The calendar pages begin with the month of September to coincide with the church activity year. An increasing number of congregations have found that it is helpful to order copies for all members of the church council or consistory to use in late spring or summer planning meetings. The cost once again this year is only \$1.50 each. Quantities are limited and last year's edition was once again sold out, so place your order early to avoid disappointment.

A new, related item is available this year for the first time. A matching 17" x 22" poster carries the cover design by noted Philadelphia artist Samuel Maitin. The design features a theological basis for Christian stewardship and mission. While especially helpful in calling a congregation's attention to a ministry of mercy, love, and justice the poster can be a helpful remainder throughout the year that this ministry requires the gift of ourselves and our substance in response to God's own gift of His Spirit. The price of the poster is \$1.00 each.

Place your order for these items with the Stewardship Council, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. Regular shipping expense will be paid by the Stewardship Council if your order is accompanied by your check.

The Minister's Word

What is the "highest" day of Christian worship? However much we may all enjoy Christmas, it is clear, both from our faith and our history, that Easter Day is at the center of our faith. It is here that we celebrate the triumph of love over hatred, truth over falsehood, light over darkness, and life over death. It is here that we declare "a hope against hope."

—David Beebe

Churches Of Southeast Conference Give To Elon Home For Children

		1972	1973
ALABAMA			
East Ala. Assoc.	East Ala. Assoc. of Cong Churches	\$300	\$374
Andalusia	First Congregational	22	0
LaFayette	Pleasant Grove	0	75
Lanett	First U. C. C.	30	0
Lanett	State Line Congregational	25	0
Langdale	Langdale Congregational CC	33	0
Phenix City	First Congregational	26	42
Roanoke	Antioch	50	25
Roanoke	Bethany	0	100
Roanoke	First Congregational	151	205
Roanoke	Mount Zion	35	0
Roanoke	New Hope	178	146
Roanoke	Pleasant Grove	50	0
Roanoke	Rock Stand Missionary Society	125	0
Shawmut	Todd Congregational	164	50
Tallassee	East Tallassee Congregational	140	100
Trinity	Caddo Church	45	16
Wadley	Congregational Christian	20	0
Wadley	Corinth	75	100
GEORGIA			
Atlanta	Central Congregational	105	100
CAiro	Evergreen Congregational	0	10
Columbus	United Congregational	0	50
Columbus	First Church (Lay Life)	0	25
Demorest	Federated Church	0	3
LaGrange	United Congregational	260	0
Pine Mountain	Oak Grove C. C. C.	83	0
Richlands	First Christian	0	10
West Point	Bethel Congregational	15	50
TENNESSEE			
Belvidere	U. C. C.	0	265
Knoxville	Church of the Savior	0	58
FLORIDA			
Baker	Pyron Chapel	0	106

1973 RECORD OF GIVING TO OCWM

Rev. Milton Gockley, Secretary for Promotion on the staff of our Stewardship Council, contrasted the giving in 1973 of members of the United Church of Christ to Our Christian World Mission with the ancient fable of the tortoise and the hare. "The tortoise was slow but steady, while his adversary, the hare, was speedy but erratic." Gockley said, "However, in the present-day contest between Our Christian World Mission receipts and inflation, the receipts are slow and often erratic, while inflation is speedy and steady!"

Reporting to the Stewardship Council at its February meeting in Philadelphia, Gockley listed nine categories within total receipts for Our Christian World Mission in 1973:

Conference Basic Support	\$8,008,092, an increase of 2.8 percent
National Basic Support	\$8,899,330, a decrease of 0.5 percent
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,066,462, a decrease of 0.7 percent
Neighbors in Need	\$ 309,364, an increase of 11.0 percent
Crisis in the Nation	\$ 44,768, a decrease of 38.7 percent
American Indian Sunday	\$ 208,995, an increase of 12.6 percent
Family Thank Offering	\$ 273,776, an increase of 3.6 percent
Second Mile Specials	\$ 78,862, a decrease of 22.1 percent
Other Directed Gifts	\$ 662,427, an increase of 12.5 percent
Total OCWM Giving	\$19,552,076, an increase of 1.3 percent

'Your Old Men Shall Dream Dreams and Your Young Men Shall See Visions'

So wrote the Prophet Joel about 600 B. C. That is, they shall, if the Holy Spirit is active among the people and here at United Church in Huntsville there is a spirit moving among us. We are dreaming dreams and seeing visions of a church big enough and strong enough to assume leadership within the community; broad enough to meet the needs of a variety of people; deep enough to contain all our individual hopes; high enough to contain our aspirations; spiritual enough to lead us in the way of Christ and liberal enough to help us seek out better ways of solving human problems.

Because of this visionary dream, our Church Council has appointed through moderator, Walter Jackson, a new committee to assess our present program and plant with the central purpose of planning both building and program requirements for the immediate future. This committee, chaired by Dr. Clarence Giese, will soon be hard at work defining the goals which will be necessary to our continued growth and effectiveness.

Because we have a purpose here in Huntsville and within God's plan for mankind, we shall not fail. Pray for the committee and its work and be willing to help them in any way when you are asked. By continuing to work together as we have in the past, our dreams and visions shall become reality.

—H. W. Tuttle

The choir of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, Ala., assisted by members of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, presented a program of music by Franz Peter Schubert on April 28, 1974.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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Pilgrim, Birmingham, Has Lenten Offering For Zaire

The city of Mbandaka, Republique Du Zaire, Africa, is located about a mile from the Equator. Most of the 150,000 people who live in Mbandaka have little or no work, and thus practically no income. Throughout the country the average annual income is only \$90. Reliable studies made by US agencies show the cost of living in Mbandaka is 30 percent higher than in Washington, D. C. The only thing which keeps people from starving is the plentiful supply of fish in the Zaire River.

Infections are terrible in the tropics. Tiny cuts, if not doctored promptly, become big sores which rapidly develop into infections of such proportions that amputation is necessary. Many men and women in Mbandaka have lost legs through such infections or because of cancer or various accidents. One leg was bitten off by a crocodile.

Cost of artificial limbs depends on where the leg is severed. When above the knee, the cost is about \$200; below the knee about half as much. The cost figure includes not only the limb but the transportation of the patient — everything.

Our Diaconate has voted to use all monies collected toward two projects:

1. Limbs for the people of Mbandaka
2. A wheel chair for use at Meadowood, the nursing home in Bessemer which we helped at Christmas time.

OUR SYMPATHY

To the Rev. Joseph E. Boone and other members of the family upon the death of their mother, Mrs. Mattie Boone, on April 15, 1974. Through her 75 years, she had been a tower of strength to her family and to the Rush Memorial Congregational Church in Atlanta, where her son, Joseph, is the pastor.

To Mrs. S. L. Johnson, minister's wife in the Birmingham Pilgrim Church, upon the recent death of her mother, Mrs. Duncan, who had lived in their home for many years.

Response to Tornadoes

In response to the tornadoes that struck the Huntsville area, the Langdale Church has undertaken a love offering to be sent directly to our Huntsville church for immediate aid to tornado victims.

WHAT RURAL LIFE SUNDAY Will Mean To One UCC Congregation

When Reverend George Varnes, pastor of Bethel United Church of Christ in rural Edwardsport, Indiana, asked some of his church members what Rural Life Sunday would mean to them, they agreed that Rural Life Sunday, May 19, is a time to celebrate responsible stewardship of the land, especially as related to soil, crop, and water management.

All of the farm members of Bethel Church are members of the Knox Soil Conservation District, which for over thirty-five years has assisted farmers in responsible land use and in designating crop land, pasture and forage land, and woodland. Hundreds of farm ponds have been built to conserve water and also to provide additional fishing and recreational facilities. Grass waterways have been built to retain the soil and to stop costly erosion of the fertile topsoil. Farmers are encouraged to have yearly soil samples tested to check the organic and nutrient needs, keeping an ever-watchful eye on the lever of herbicide and weedicide in the soil. A good steward of the land checks all areas of land use to ensure productive and safe foods.

Of the seventy-five percent of Bethel Church's members who are farmers, twenty-five percent are under thirty years of age. Church members have sponsored an implement cooperative which makes farm machinery and repairs of machinery readily accessible and reasonably priced. Pollution is as much the farmer's concern as it is the urban dweller's. New methods of waste control are constantly being introduced and employed in today's farming operation. This, Rural Life Sunday is really a celebration of caring for, and of being concerned for, the soil.

Members will do more than simply pray for a bountiful harvest. They will remember that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof . . ." (Psalm 24). And they will realize that conservation of the soil is a religious matter.

DR. EUGENE M. BUSHONG, of Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, was married to Miss Mary Alice Evans on Feb. 22, 1974, in Plymouth, Michigan. They will be living in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee. Our congratulations to them.

E. ALA. MINISTERS CHALLENGED

The ministers of the East Alabama Association were sensitized to a growing opportunity for their communities during their monthly ministers' meeting March 18, 1974. Judge Stell Benefield and Robert L. Bringle (LaGrange Planning Commission) spoke on the subject, "Our Church by the Rivers: Chattahoochee and Tallapoosa — Opportunities and Challenges." Both Judge Benefield and Mr. Bringle brought to our attention that by the year 2000 it has been predicted that the area between Atlanta, Ga. and Birmingham, Al., will be the largest industrial complex in the world.

Similar economic development is also expected due south from Atlanta to Columbus, Ga. This means that in the ensuing years, with the development of the West Point Dam Project and other federally funded recreation areas, our community will have the opportunity for unparalleled expansion. More expansion means more people. More people means a greater need for vibrant churches.

— Steve Gray

TOURS-IN-DEPTH Offered By United Church of Christ

Among organizations in the travel business these days is the United Church of Christ, which offers each year a number of guided tours-in-depth to various parts of the world. People who have taken these tours write enthusiastically about the opportunities they have been given to look behind the scenes of the countries they visited. They have seen hospitals, schools, missions, social centers; talked with or listened to missionaries, labor leaders, diplomats, students; received State Department briefings; all in addition to the usual touring, shopping and picture-taking that go with foreign travel.

Included in the 1974 schedule are tours to the islands of the Pacific, Turkey-Greece; the Near East, Europe and the Holy Land, Japan and Hong Kong, Central and Southern Africa, the British Isles and the Southern U. S. A.

Anyone wishing information about United Church Tours should write promptly to Dr. Leo Keil, 337 West Liberty Street, P. O. Box 777, Wooster, Ohio 44691. A listing of the tours and dates is available in the Southeast Conference Office.